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Fifty-third session
Agenda item 20 (*b*)

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[*without reference to a Main Committee (A/53/L.17 and Add.1)*]

53/1. Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance: special economic assistance to individual countries or regions

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Emergency Assistance to Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 42/169 of 11 December 1987, 43/202 of 20 December 1988, 44/236 of 22 December 1989, 45/185 of 21 December 1990, 46/149 of 18 December 1991, 46/182 of 19 December 1991, 48/188 of 21 December 1993, 49/22 A of 2 December 1994, 49/21 P of 18 September 1995 and 53/1 B of 5 October 1998,

Deeply regretting the loss of human lives and the scores of victims in the wake of hurricane Mitch in Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama from 26 to 29 October 1998,

Conscious of the huge material losses sustained to crops, homes, basic infrastructure and tourist and other areas,

Acknowledging the efforts of the Governments of Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama to minimize the human losses and rapidly to assist the affected population,

Noting the enormous effort that will be required to rebuild the affected areas and to alleviate the grave situation wreaked by this natural disaster,

Aware that the work of reconstruction will require broad, coordinated support, as well as solidarity, from the international community,

1. *Expresses its solidarity and support* to the Government and the peoples of Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama;

2. *Expresses its appreciation* to the members of the international community that have so far provided support to the rescue and assistance effort for the affected population;

3. *Appeals* to all Member States and all organs and bodies of the United Nations system, as well as international financial institutions and development agencies, to provide speedy support to the relief, rehabilitation and assistance effort for the affected countries;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General and all organs and bodies of the United Nations system, as well as international financial institutions and development agencies, to assist Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama in assessing their needs and to help to ensure the rehabilitation and recovery of the economy and the affected population in the short, medium and long term;

5. *Requests* the relevant organs and organizations of the United Nations system and other multilateral organizations to increase their support and assistance for strengthening the disaster-preparedness capacity of the countries concerned;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly, under agenda item 20, through the Economic and Social Council at the next humanitarian questions segment of its substantive session, on the collaborative effort referred to in paragraph 4 above and on the progress made with the relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts of the affected countries.

50th plenary meeting
2 November 1998